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PAKISTAN: East Pakistan's leading political figure has intimated that he will soon announce the equivalent of independence for the East.

According to a reporter who attended a briefing for foreign correspondents Wednesday night, Mujibur Rahman confided that at a mass rally scheduled for 7 March in Dacca he would call for East and West Pakistan to write separate constitutions and afterwards discuss some form of federation. Although such a procedure appears less drastic than a unilateral declaration of independence, it is unlikely that it would be acceptable to the government and military, which are dominated by West Pakistanis.

Meanwhile, violence lessened somewhat in East Pakistan following Mujib's address to a rally Wednesday afternoon. Although he castigated the government for allowing troops to fire on civilians and demanded that the troops return to their barracks, he also urged East Pakistanis to halt the looting and arson that have been going on since Tuesday. Mujib called upon East Pakistanis to disrupt communications, to barricade the roads to impede military movements, and to refuse to pay taxes to the government.

There is evidence that some military reinforcements are being flown into East Pakistan via Ceylon, and at least one report claims that more troops are en route by sea. Before the disturbances began, there were about 20,000 troops stationed in East Pakistan, but one fifth of these were Bengalis whose loyalties probably lie with their fellow East Pakistanis. The actions of the East Pakistani Rifles, a paramilitary force of 10,000-13,000, are uncertain, because a substantial portion of the enlisted men are actually non-Bengalis.

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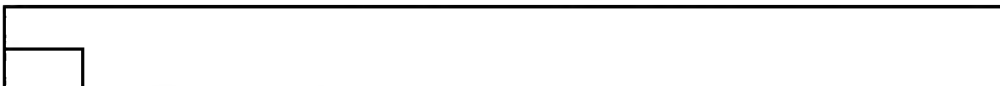
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EGYPT-ISRAEL: The Egyptian Government has given no sign that it intends to resume hostilities in the near future, but it has continued to hedge over whether it will agree to an extension of the cease-fire beyond 7 March.

As the deadline approaches, the tone of Cairo's propaganda has been less strident than it was just before the previous expiration date of 5 February. The rhetoric has concentrated on political maneuverings rather than on military threats, with some emphasis on the responsibility of the US to prod Israel toward a more forthcoming attitude.



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Egypt intends to explore fully the possibilities of a political solution to the Arab-Israeli crisis before resorting to war. International efforts to gain a more positive commitment from the Israelis on withdrawal, together with international appeals for continued military restraint, could provide Cairo with sufficient justification for continued reliance in the immediate future on political as opposed to military action. President Sadat is expected to make his intentions clearer in a major speech prior to 7 March.

On the military side, both Egypt and Israel continue to be wary of the other's intentions. The only military preparations appear to involve the alerting of forces by both sides.

The strategic standoff that has developed is unlikely to change in the short run, but a continued standstill on the diplomatic front may create pressures within Egypt for a more active policy to force concessions out of Israel. Cairo's military leaders may realize that a resumed war of attrition

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or an attempt to cross the Suez Canal could bring disastrous results, but they might eventually come to feel that a recourse to arms is the only means to break the political deadlock. The Israelis, for their part, have little to gain from another round of fighting at this time and are not expected to provoke or initiate hostilities.

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TURKEY: Top civilian and military leaders apparently are becoming increasingly concerned over repeated rumors of coup plotting within the armed forces.

General Tagmac, the chief of the Turkish General Staff, who appears to be close to President Sunay but not so close to the commanders of the army and air force, reportedly has begun a major effort to warn military officers that he will no longer condone plotting among them. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Tagmac addressed all general officers and troop commanders in the Ankara area on Wednesday. After implying strongly that he is aware of current plotting, he warned them to stay out of politics.

During the ensuing days, similar talks are to be given at the war colleges in Istanbul, the service academies in Ankara, and in the three major army commands.

Although such warnings might have some dampening effect on peripheral dissidence, they probably will not appreciably lessen the sub-rosa contingency planning that has long been reported under way within the high command itself nor reduce the pressures from lower echelons for the military to play a stronger role in government.

* * * *

[The four US airmen kidnaped near Ankara are still missing. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the kidnapers may be holding the airmen somewhere on the campus of the Middle East Technical University, near the spot where they were abducted and long a center of leftist student activities. Security officials have sealed off the entire campus area with]

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4,000-5,000 gendarmerie and police and are prepared to make a thorough search of the area today. Students have barricaded themselves in the dormitories and have weapons, raising the possibility of a major clash.

The Turks have been reading over the radio parts of the lengthy "manifesto" sent by the kidnapers, thereby meeting one of their demands. No further contact has been made concerning the \$400,000 ransom demand. One of the five abductors was apprehended soon after the incident. He has identified the other four as members of the Turkish Revolutionary Youth Federation, which is primarily responsible for the recent upsurge of terrorist actions in Ankara and other parts of Turkey. The kidnapers have threatened to "execute" the four airmen if their demands, including the ransom payment, are not met by 2300 EST today, an extension of their initial deadline.

The manifesto, issued in the name of a previously unheard of "Turkish People's Liberation Army," is in effect a call to arms for a popular uprising and guerrilla warfare throughout Turkey. The youth federation, however, probably numbers only a few hundred at most.

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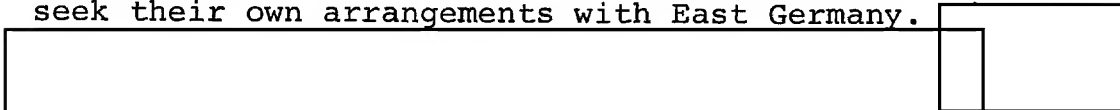
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EAST GERMANY: Several Western airlines may initiate regular air service to East Berlin's Schoenefeld Airport before mid-year.

Royal Dutch Airlines may be the first to initiate service by adding East Berlin on one of its Amsterdam-Moscow flights next month. The Finnish state airline is planning to begin flying to Schoenefeld this year and will open an office in East Berlin. Austrian Airlines already has an agreement with Interflug, the East German airline, and may also begin service this year; Interflug started twice weekly air service to Vienna late last year.

Copenhagen, Oslo, and Stockholm have authorized Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) to begin formal negotiations with Interflug in mid-March in Stockholm. Agreement is dependent upon Pankow's approval of overflights of East Germany by SAS to West Berlin. If agreement is reached, each company will make three weekly flights between Copenhagen and Schoenefeld, possibly beginning as early as 1 April.

The reluctance of some of the Allied powers to allow other Western airlines to fly into West Berlin has motivated the airlines of these countries to seek their own arrangements with East Germany.



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NOTES

MALAYSIA: The Malaysian Parliament, which reconvened in late February after a shutdown of nearly 21 months, has approved constitutional amendments guaranteeing the special privileges of Malays. The amendments include a ban on parliamentary discussion of certain sensitive topics which might incite communal troubles. During the unusually acrimonious session, Deputy Prime Minister Ismail threatened that anyone attempting to obstruct the government would be dealt with "mercilessly." The amendments were passed by an overwhelming majority, and were opposed only by two small parties. Those opposition parties who voted with the government probably believe that their chances of influence are better under parliamentary government than they were during the period of martial law. They thus voted with the government to avoid provoking it into reimposing martial law, as it had threatened to do if the amendments were not passed.

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BURUNDI: The most significant change in the cabinet shuffle of 3 March is the transfer of Minister Delegate of the Presidency Simbananye to be minister of foreign affairs. Simbananye, a strong supporter of Communist China, replaces moderate, pro-Western minister Ndobakwaje, who will take over the economic portfolio. Simbananye can expect the support of the new minister of justice, who is also a strong China booster. These appointments may result in more pressures to resume diplomatic relations with Communist China--suspended since 1965--and increased opposition to President Micombero's reported desire to sever relations with North Korea. Micombero, who has maintained tight control over previous cabinets, does not appear disposed toward closer relations with Communist countries, however, and no major policy changes appear likely in the near future.

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BOLIVIA:

[REDACTED] the government will nationalize two US-owned mining operations in the near future; widespread rumors in the capital indicate this action is imminent. Leftist groups have made insistent demands for the nationalization of these installations--the two largest foreign-owned mining operations in Bolivia. President Torres appears to appreciate the problems that would be caused by the uncompensated expropriation of US property. He would gain a limited degree of temporary support by acceding to leftist demands, but his political gain would be diluted by a promise to compensate the owners.

* * * *

[REDACTED] COLOMBIA: Student demonstrations are continuing in Colombia's three major cities with more injuries and property damage. The government's strong action has so far contained the protesters but it has also angered them. The demonstrations are likely to spread and to continue until next Monday, when a general work stoppage is scheduled.

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